

FEBRUARY 16, 1839.

Read twice, and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MERCER, from the Committee on Roads and Canals, reported the following bill :

A BILL

To authorize certain internal improvements, to institute and continue certain surveys, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
3 the following sums be, and they are hereby, appropriated to
4 the several objects, respectively, which are herein named, viz :

5 To the improvement of the navigation of Back creek, the
6 southern entrance of the Chesapeake and Delaware canal, ac-
7 cording to the plan recommended to the Department of War
8 by Lieutenant Colonel J. H. Long, of the corps of topo-
9 graphical engineers, and the construction of a harbor at Del-
10 aware city, the northern entrance of the said canal, according
11 to the plan of H. Belin, communicated to that department
12 by Lieutenant M. C. Meigs, of the same corps, the sum of
13 fifty thousand dollars.

14 To the improvement of the navigation of the Wabash
15 river, between the Grand rapids and Delphi, in the States of
16 Indiana and Illinois, the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars.

17 To the improvement of the navigation of the Maumee
18 river, near the eastern termination of the Wabash and Erie
19 canal, according to the plan reported by the Department of
20 War, the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars.

21 To the improvement of the navigation and harbor of
22 James river, according to the plan comprehended in the re-
23 port from the Topographical bureau to the Secretary of War
24 of February first, eighteen hundred and thirty-seven, and the
25 communication of the acting Secretary of War to the House
26 of Representatives, pursuant to a resolution of the House of
27 Representatives of the thirtieth of January, eighteen hundred
28 and thirty, the sum of sixty-three thousand two hundred dol-
29 lars, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of
30 War.

31 To the improvement of the navigation of Core sound,
32 in the State of North Carolina, according to the suggestions
33 of the Engineer department, to be expended under the direc-
34 tion of the Secretary of War, fifteen thousand dollars.

35 To the removal of the obstructions in the navigation of
36 Black and White rivers, in the States of Arkansas and Mis-
37 souri, according to the estimate submitted to the Department,
38 and communicated to Congress by the Secretary of War, fif-
39 teen thousand dollars.

40 To the construction of the necessary bridges on the road
41 leading from Jefferson city, in the State of Missouri, to a

42 point on the Missouri river, opposite Fort Leavenworth, the
 43 sum of twenty-five thousand dollars.

44 To complete the road from Jackson to Fort Smith, the
 45 sum of twenty thousand dollars.

46 To construct a road from Little Rock to Fort Smith, the
 47 sum of twenty-five thousand dollars.

48 To defray the expense of a survey and estimate of the
 49 probable cost of a Macadamized road, from a suitable point
 50 on the Cumberland road, west of the Laurel hill, by way of
 51 Pittsburg and the United States arsenal in the vicinity there-
 52 of, to the town of Erie, in the State of Pennsylvania, five hun-
 53 dred dollars.

54 To the survey of the river Potomac, from the navy yard,
 55 in Washington, to the mouth thereof, with a view to the re-
 56 moval of obstructions to its navigation by ships of great bur-
 57 den, the sum of one thousand dollars.

58 To the survey of the river Tennessee, above the Muscle
 59 shoals, and of the Holston and other branches thereof sus-
 60 ceptible of navigation, with a view to the improvement there-
 61 of, the sum of fifteen hundred dollars.

62 To the further prosecution of the survey and estimate
 63 for the improvement of the line of inland seaboard naviga-
 64 tion leading to the South, from the southern outlet of the
 65 Dismal Swamp canal, the sum of dollars.

66 To the survey of the Penobscot river, in Maine, above

67 Oldtown, with a view to ascertain the practicability of im-
 68 proving it for steamboat navigation, five hundred dollars.

69 To the survey of a canal communication from the ter-
 70 mination of the Chemung canal, at Elmira, in New York,
 71 to the intersection of the North Branch canal of Pennsylv-
 72 ania, by the northern boundary of that State, five hundred
 73 dollars.

74 To the survey of the Little Wabash river, in the State
 75 of Illinois, with a view to the improvement of the navigation
 76 thereof, the sum of five hundred dollars.

77 To a survey of the valley of the St. Francis river, west
 78 of the Mississippi, with a view to ascertain the proper direc-
 79 tion and probable cost of suitable canals and embankments
 80 to drain the public lands on the waters thereof, the sum of
 81 one thousand dollars.

82 To a like survey of Field's lake and L'Eau Blanc, near
 83 the river La Fourche, five hundred dollars.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the sum of one
 2 hundred and thirty-five thousand four hundred and fifty-
 3 seven dollars, the amount of the dividends declared on the
 4 stock held by the Government of the United States in the
 5 Louisville and Portland canal previously to the year eighteen
 6 hundred and thirty-seven, and the interest of the Government
 7 in the tolls collected by said canal since the commencement
 8 of the year eighteen hundred and thirty-seven, and also the

9 future proceeds of the stock now held, and which may be
10 hereafter acquired by the Government in said canal, be, and
11 they are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treas-
12 ury not otherwise appropriated, towards purchasing up, in
13 the name of the Government, the stock held by individuals
14 in said canal; and that the Secretary of the Treasury be, and
15 he is hereby, constituted an agent for the Government to
16 make said purchase on the best possible terms; and that
17 when all the stock in said canal shall be purchased up by the
18 Government, the tolls shall be so reduced as barely to defray
19 the expenses of its repairs and superintendence.